Abstract

The invention provides a Controller-Pilot Data Link Communication (CPDLC) module that can be operatively connected to a cockpit audio system to aurally provide a pilot messages the module receives from ground control

5   and to allow the pilot to operate the module with spoken commands. The module includes an enunciator circuit for playing out a string of digital audio data associated with a message and a voice recognition component for recognizing spoken commands and performing tasks in response to the commands. Thus, the pilot can use CPDLC protocols to exchange

10   information with ground control yet communicate with ground control by listening and talking as if he was communicating with a voice radio. The module can also visually present messages and other information and receive input from programmable buttons and a knob. The functions of the buttons and knob change as the operational state of the module changes. For

15   example, when the module displays current messages, pushing a button causes the module to perform a task, and when the module displays possible responses to a message, pushing the same button causes the module to perform a different task. Furthermore, the module can include, visually present and/or aurally provide a checklist of tasks to be completed when a

20   message associated with the checklist is received or sent by the module.